

RECREATION

Glebe touches in Prescott



Shakespeare alfresco

BY JOHN AND MICHÈLE
HARDING

With summer in bloom, the famous line from one of Shakespeare's sonnets comes to mind: "Shall I compare thee to a summer's day"

The amphitheatre overlooking the marina in Prescott is a serene location to enjoy beautiful summer weather. From July through mid August, the St. Lawrence Shakespeare Festival (www.stlawrenceshakespeare.ca) will be presenting *Twelfth Night* and *All's Well That Ends Well*. In addition to Ian Farthing, the accomplished artistic director, Rebecca Campbell, formerly of the NAC, is the new general manager; and Andrea Robertson, Prix Rideau Award winner for Outstanding Costume Design in last season's production of *Macbeth*, brings her talent back to the St. Lawrence. Alleyn Abel, a committed volunteer is also a former Glebeite. Alleyn's childhood home was on Broadway at the Queen Elizabeth Driveaway and later on Clemow Avenue. The St. Lawrence Shakespeare Festival and the Town of Prescott are enriched by the dedication of such individuals and these cultural connections with the Glebe.

The heritage element, as seen in many historic buildings, also has a current Glebe connection. Our little 1830s stone house, diagonally across from the post office, was constructed as a commercial building. It was a tailor shop in the mid 1800s; then became the surgery for two doctors from 1900-1969. Following that period, it was transformed into residential use. For about 10 years up to

2010, it was neglected and empty. After extensive rehabilitation, we are pleased it is being considered for historical recognition. The staff at the Glebe UPS Store in The Fifth Avenue Court has been enormously helpful in assisting with photocopying faded documents and sections from historical reference books.

The Rideau Canal Waterway often is associated with Fort Henry in Kingston. However, there is a fort closer to the Glebe and that is Fort Wellington in Prescott. This Parks Canada National Historic site is an enjoyable visit for all ages. Staff is dressed in period costumes, describe life in the fort, and play games with children. Over \$2 million has been allocated to enhancing this attraction, including the display of a preserved British gunboat hull from the 1812 era.

As you wander around town, you can visit the Forwarders' Museum, near the clock tower and the Grenville County Historical Society, in the former railway station. You may see us in our little garden at the corner on Centre Street, across from the post office. Stop for a chat. Some marginal perennials from the previous garden in the Glebe are thriving in this slightly milder zone along the St. Lawrence. These summer's day delights in Prescott are only a 45-minute drive south from the Glebe.

John and Michèle Harding, former residents of the Glebe, encourage summer visitors to come spend a day enjoying the history and theatre to be found in Prescott.



Our house revitalized with plants from the Glebe.